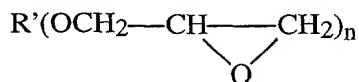


What is claimed is:

1. A protective article comprising:  
a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated; and  
a curable adhesive layer on at least one surface.
2. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive layer comprises an epoxide resin and a curing agent.
3. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive layer comprises a urethane adhesive.
4. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive layer comprises an acrylate or cyano-acrylate adhesive.
5. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive layer is curable at ambient temperature.
6. The protective article of claim 2 wherein the epoxide resin is selected from the group consisting of epoxycyclohexane carboxylates, glycidyl ether monomers of the formula:



where R' is aliphatic; aromatic; or combinations thereof, and n is an integer of 1 to 6, and combinations thereof.

7. The protective article of claim 2 wherein the curing agent is selected from the group consisting of poly(ether) amines, guanidines, imidazoles, cyclohexylamine, diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetraamine, cyclohexyldiamine, tetramethylpiperamine, N,N-dibutyl-1,3-propane diamine, N,N-diethyl-1,3-propane diamine, 1,2-diamino-2-methyl-

propane, 2,3-diamino-2-methylbutane, 2,3-diamino-2-methylpentane, and 2,4-diamino-2,6-dimethyloctane, and combinations thereof.

8. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the backing comprises a  
5 terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride.

9. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the backing comprises a  
copolymer of hexafluoropropylene and vinylidene fluoride.

10. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the backing comprises poly(vinyl  
10 fluoride).

11. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive comprises an  
epoxide resin and a curing agent and the epoxide resin is (chloromethyl)oxirane,  
15 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer or a modified diglycidyl ether of Bisphenol  
A.

12. The protective article of claim 11 wherein the curing agent is an aliphatic  
polymer diamine, or 4,7,10-trioxatridecane-1,13-diamine.

13. The protective article of claim 1 bonded to a substrate.

14. The protective article of claim 9 wherein the substrate is selected from the  
group consisting of painted surfaces, primed surfaces, metallic surfaces, ceramics, cured  
25 and un-cured composite surfaces, fluorinated polymer surfaces, plated surfaces,  
galvanized surfaces, and combinations thereof.

15. The protective article of claim 9 wherein the substrate to which it is  
bonded comprises an aluminum surface.

16. The protective article of claim 9 wherein the substrate to which it is bonded  
comprises a fluoropolymer that is not perfluorinated.

17. The protective article of claim 9 wherein the substrate to which it is bonded comprises a cured resin.

5 18. The protective article of claim 9 wherein the substrate to which it is bonded is a portion of a surface of a vehicle.

10 19. An uncured composite article having a fluoropolymer layer comprising:  
a fiber reinforcement impregnated with a curable adhesive composition;  
and  
a fluorinated polymer film that is not perfluorinated in contact with the  
impregnated reinforcement.

15 20. The uncured composite article of claim 20 wherein the fluorinated polymer film has a curable adhesive layer on at least one surface of the film.

21. A composite article comprising a cured composite article of claim 19.

22. A composite article comprising a cured composite article of claim 20.

20 23. A method of providing an article having a fluorinated polymer surface comprising the step of bonding the protective article of claim 1 to the substrate and curing the curable adhesive layer.

25 24. A method of providing an article having a fluorinated polymer surface comprising the steps of:

contacting a surface of the article with a curable adhesive;

contacting a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not  
perfluorinated with the curable adhesive; and

30 curing the curable adhesive.

25. A method of sealing an edge of an appliqué positioned on a substrate comprising the steps of:

placing a protective article of claim 1 along the edge of the appliqué such that the protective article overlaps the appliqué and the substrate; and  
curing the curable adhesive of the protective article of claim 1.

26. A method of sealing adjacent polymeric film appliqué comprising the steps of:

defining a seam by abutting edges of two polymeric appliqué together on a substrate;  
applying a protective article of claim 1 along the seam over the abutted edges of the polymeric appliqué; and  
curing the curable adhesive of the protective article of claim 1.

27. A method of repairing a damaged area of protected surface comprising the steps of:

placing a protective article of claim 1 onto and covering the damaged area of the protected surface; and  
curing the curable adhesive layer.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the protected surface is protected with paint, fluorinated polymer film, primer, metal, plastic, decal, or combinations thereof.

29. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the curable adhesive contains anti-corrosion additive.

30. The protective article of claim 1 wherein the backing has a patterned structure.